

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0333

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15230

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VP VISIT TO FRANCE: FRENCH MIDDLE
EAST VIEWS

REF: PARIS 15073

1. IN BRIEF COMMENT ON MUBARAK'S VISIT TO PARIS, QUAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE NEAR EAST SERVANT TOLD US JUNE
12 THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE VP'S DISCUSSIONS WITH
GISCARD HAD NOT YET FILTERED DOWN TO THE QUAI. HOWEVER,
HE SAID, THE QUAI HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TALKS
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COULD NOT HAVE BEEN VERY SIGNIFICANT SINCE DESPITE

SADAT'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM, MUBARAK APPARENTLY IS NOT A PARTY TO THE NITTY-GRITTY OF SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. SERVANT THOUGHT THE TONE OF MUBARAK'S REMARKS TO LE MONDE (REFTTEL) WAS OVERLY BLUNT, GOOD EVIDENCE THAT HE REMAINS MORE A SOLDIER THAN A DIPLOMATIC EMISSARY TO WHOM SADAT WOULD CONFIDE DELICATE MISSIONS.

2. SERVANT CONCEDED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WISH TO BUY FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY, RATHER THAN THROUGH A THIRD PARTY, BUT OFFERED NO DETAILS OTHER THAN TO INDICATE THAT THE PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED BY THE FINANCING DEMANDS OF EGYPT'S MONETARY BACKER, PRESUMABLY MEANING SAUDI ARABIA OR KUWAIT. HE ALSO CONFIRMED A RUMOR WE HAD HEARD FROM AN ISRAELI JOURNALIST THAT MUBARAK CAME TO PARIS IN RESPONSE TO A DEFENSE MINISTRY INVITATION FOR EGYPT TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AIR SHOW. AS AN ADDITIONAL BIT OF ONE-UPMANSHIP, MUBARAK CARRIED A MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO GISCARD, THUS INSURING A PRESIDENTIAL MEETING AND PLACING ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES FURTHER IN THE BACKGROUND.

3. SERVANT REPEATED THE CURRENT AND SEEMINGLY STRONGLY-FELT QUAI LINE THAT NOW IS THE GOLDEN MOMENT FOR A DETERMINED U.S. EFFORT TO SECURE A SECOND SINAI WITHDRAWAL AND SOME MOVEMENT IN THE GOLAN. "DELAY COULD BE DISASTROUS." HE ALLOWED AS HOW FRENCH COUNSEL TO THE SYRIANS AND IRAQIS EMPHASIZING THE SETTLEMENT-NOW THEME MIGHT, INDEED, BE HELPFUL TO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, BUT LEFT NO HOPE THAT THE QUAI MIGHT INSTRUCT ITS AMBASSADORS IN DAMASCUS OR BAGHDAD TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THAT EFFECT.

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